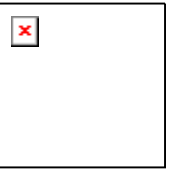




THE CAISSONS CORNER

January 17, 2006



Greetings from Iraq! First I must say how extremely proud I am of our Soldiers. You should be very proud of your Soldier, he has accomplished a lot over the course of the past year, and now is supporting the fight against terrorism in Iraq. It amazes me daily how this organization only existed on paper a year ago and now we are deployed answering the call to duty. It truly is an honor to lead these fine Soldiers everyday as they execute this deployment in a truly honorable and remarkable way. Additionally, I can't say enough to the families and loved ones for all your tremendous support and understanding for what we do. I know you all make sacrifices daily to support and honor your Soldier while deployed. To the Family Readiness Group – THANKS! You truly make a difference – you are all volunteers doing what you do because you care for people, family, friends and Soldiers. Thank you – we need you all.

The first month of our deployment is drawing to a close and the battalion is fully engaged in our mission. In conjunction with the 4th Infantry Division's Transfer of Authority on Jan. 7, 589th BSB is also assuming more direct responsibility for support operations to the Fires Brigade and other units.

Since our last newsletter the entire battalion has arrived safely to Camp Liberty, Iraq and has settled in to our new living and work areas. Most of the battalion traveled by US Air Force transport plane over the span of a few days.



About 20 percent of our troops made the three-day journey by ground from our Kuwait camp to Camp Liberty. They arrived safely and enjoyed a warm bed and hot meal upon their arrival.

Although we would have rather shared the holiday season with our families the Iron Caissons enjoyed the holidays together. Our Soldiers on the ground convoy shared Christmas dinner on the hoods of their M1114 up-armored Humvees and even improvised some decorations.



Alpha Company "Rough Riders" arrived to Camp Liberty on Christmas day just in time to engage the HHC "Hammer Heads" in the first ever 589th Holiday Football challenge. The "Rough Riders" prevailed but it was a great time had by all. 589th came together again on New Years Day to challenge HHC, Fires BDE to a football game and were victorious.





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Those events offered a much deserved break for the Iron Caissons from the near continuous tasks in establishing our operations. The battalion arrived to a full motor pool of equipment that was coordinated for by our liaisons who have been in theater for three months. Convoys arrived nightly bringing a full compliment of vehicles that will be used to support our customer base.



Our Soldiers worked hard ensuring that all equipment was safely unloaded and prepared for future missions. Maintenance operations spearheaded by our Bravo Company "Bandits" began immediately as well as training on pieces that were new to our formation.

In addition to developing our motor pool and maintenance operations a lot of dedicated effort went in to establishing our battalion and company headquarters.



These headquarters are now fully functional and provide a full compliment of tactical and administrative service to support our Soldiers in their mission.

On Jan. 1, the battalion rang in the new year with several promotion ceremonies. The Bravo Company "Bandits" gained three new NCOs. Congratulations to Sergeants Williams, Wilson and Russell. The "Rough Riders" added SGT Shultz to the NCO corps as well. A total of nine new specialists and three new private first classes were also added to the ranks.

I continue to be extremely proud of each and every Soldier of the 589th BSB. I am always amazed by their level of professionalism and dedication to the service of our country. Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; and the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most that has made it possible for evil to triumph.

Today the Iron Caissons are acting, they know the path to success, and they are the voice of freedom as we "SUPPORT THE FIGHT" for a free and democratic Iraq. Leaders and Soldiers will continue to take care of our Soldiers while deployed -- just as our great Family Readiness Group will take care of our families and loved ones remaining in the states. CSM Taylor and I can't say thank you enough to everyone for the support provided to us all. Iron Caissons "Supporting the Fight"!!!

BARRY A. DIEHL
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Battalion Commander

